

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-11

RSC-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PRS-01

PA-04 USIA-15 IO-14 OIC-04 DRC-01 /255 W

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R 231642Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7327

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: COFFEE -? WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS MEETS
INCONCLUSIVELY

REF: LONDON 14512, DECEMBER 1N, 1973

SUMMARY. STATISTICS W. G. MET IN LONDON FOR TWO DAYS.
DISCUSSION ON FIRST DAY CENTERED AROUND PORTUGUESE PRO-
POSAL FOR REVISIONS IN EXISTING INDICATOR PRICE SYSTEM,
AND ON SECOND DAY DEALT WITH COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL USE
NEW YORK OFFICES OF COFFEE PRODUCERS AS SOURCE OF
INDICATOR PRICES. MEETING ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH NO
FIXED DATE SET FOR NEXT MEETING. END SUMMARY

L. ICO W.G. ON STATISTICS MET IN LONDON ON JANUARY
21-22. ON FIRST DAY GROUP SELECTED ICO EXECUTIVE DI-
RECTOR BELTRAO AS CHAIRMAN. AT US REQUEST, SECRE-
TARIAT HANDED OUT A BRIEF PAPER SETTING OUT SOME OF
PAST HISTORY OF INDICATOR PRICE SYSTEM AND ALSO ON
OWN INITIATIVE DISTRIBUTED LETTER RECEIVED FROM
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PORTUGAL (MEDINAL PROPOSING SOME SPECIFIC CHANGES

IN INDICATOR SYSTEM FOR ROBUSTA COFFEES.

2. AT OUTSET OF MEETING, US SUGGESTED THAT W.G. AGREE THAT INDICATOR PRICE SYSTEM OF SOME KIND NECESSARY BOTH FOR STATISTICAL REASONS AND POSSIBLY AS OPERATING MECHANISM, SHOULD ICA WITH ECONOMIC CLAUSES BE RE-NEGOTIATED. AT END OF MEETING, /US OBSERVED THAT EVERYONE HAD TACITLY AGREED THAT INDICATOR PRICE SYSTEM SHOULD BE CONTINUED. APART FROM THIS, DISCUSSION FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON CHANGES IN PRESENT SYSTEM.

3. ON FIRST DAY THIS CENTERED ON PORTUGUESE LETTER IN WHICH MEDINA PROPOSED:

- A. CHANGE FROM AMBRIZ AA TO AMBRIZ BB AS BASIS FOR PRICE
- B. PATON, IN ESTABLISHING DAILY PRICE, WOULD SELECT CONTACTS FROM LIST OF 12 IMPORTERS TO BE SUPPLIED ANNUALLY BY EXPORTING COUNTRY.
- C. PATON WOULD QUOTE ONLY ON BASIS OF SALES FROM ORIGIN, (I.E. SECOND HAND AND SPECULATIVE SALES WOULD BE COMPLETELY EXCLUDED) AND ONLY IF SOURCES CHECKED REPORTED SALES OF AT LEAST 100 TONS.
- D. IF NO SALES FROM ORIGIN OR IF MINIMUM NOT MET, PREVIOUS DAYS QUOTATION WOULD BE USED.

4. COLOMBIA ONLY DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL. FRANCE AND US EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT USEFULNESS OF PROPOSAL. GERMANY SAID THAT MATTERS RAISED BY PORTUGAL WERE TOO TECHNICAL TO DISCUSS IN WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF GOVT. REPS- THESE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS. US THEN POINTED OUT THAT THERE MIGHT BE STAGE AT WHICH TECHNICAL ADVICE NEEDED, BUT WE FAR FROM THAT POINT YET.

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5. ON JANUARY 22ND COLOMBIA (RESTREPO) SUGGESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN NEW YORK BE USED AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION BY PATON. HIS PROPOSAL NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, BUT HE SEEMED TO BE SAYING THAT PATON SHOULD ASK REPRESENTATIVES FOR INFORMATION ON SALES MADE BY EXPORTERS IN COUNTRY THEY REPRESENT. ALL CONSUMERS OPPOSED THIS IDEA- ON PRODUCER SIDE BRAZIL SILENT AS THEY WERE THROUGHOUT MEETING; EL SALVADOR SAID CRYPTICALLY THAT THEY WITHDREW THEIR SUPPORT FOR ORIGINAL COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL THAT NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVES DRAW UP INDICATOR PRICE BUT WERE NEUTRAL ON LATEST COLOMBIAN VARIATION THIS THEME. OAMCAF SAID THAT SINCE ICA HAD NO ECONOMIC CLAUSES NO POINT DISCUSSING INDICATOR PRICES NOW, BUT THAT THEY IMPRESSED BY "LOGIC" OF COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL.

6. MEETING CLOSED WITH REQUEST FROM BELTRAO THAT ANY PROPOSED CHANGES IN INDICATOR PRICE SYSTEM
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BE PUT IN WRITING AND CIRCULATED PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING OF GROUP. NO SPECIFIC DATE FOR MEETING SET, BUT BELTRAO SUGGESTED THAT MIGHT BE HELD WHILE W.G. ON RENEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT MEETING, I.E. SOMETIME DURING PERIOD FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 1ST.

7. SUBSEQUENTLY PRODUCERS ANNOUNCED TO PRESS THAT THEY INTENDED MEET IN LONDON FEBRUARY 12 - 15TH IN ORDER COORDINATE THEIR POSITION FOR W.G. ON RENEGOTIATION.

ANNENBERG

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